

# **State Board for Community and Junior College**

## **EVENING MEETING**

### **Board Work Session**

***Thursday; October 15, 1998***

## **MINUTES**

The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges Members met at 6:00 p.m. at the Edison Walthall Hotel, 225 East Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on October 15, 1998. The following members were present: Patricia Puckett, Henry Hudspeth, Joanna Heidel, George Walker, Hazel Terry, Billy Seal, and John Junkin. Sara Fox, Yvonne Brown, Billy Hewes were not present. State Board for Community and Junior Colleges staff present included Randall Bradberry, Ethel Ewing, Olon Ray, Evelyn Webb, Deborah Gilbert, Larry Day and Wayne Stonecypher.

Upon completion of the meal, those present moved from the dining room to the Camellia Room on the eighth floor. Mr. Walker called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Immediately following the opening Dr. Ray reported on the Fully Paid Tuition and Required Fees for Deserving Recent High School Graduates Program. Dr. Ray explained that this program will redefine the type of education needed for students today. He also stated that the needs of employment have driven education with 75% of new jobs requiring employees with more than a high school education. The intent of this program is to provide a fully paid scholarship for students coming out of high school. Some requirements for consideration include: high school diploma or GED Certificate, application, minimum of C average, results of FAFSA, acceptable conduct, acceptable attendance in high school. This scholarship would be available to every qualifying high school graduate in the state. Dr. Ray suggests that possible funding could come from growth in gaming revenue, but this will be decided by the legislature. He mentioned that the arguments against this proposal are that it would hurt the universities and that no one should get something for nothing. Dr. Ray thought that the university pool will increase as a result. This program includes fully paid tuition only as a scholarship.

Mr. Walker and Mrs. Heidel questioned the age factor. Other members discussed different factors concerning this idea. It was noted that 80-85% of all college students receive some form of student aid. Deborah explained the finance factors of this issue. The projected 2-year cost is \$3,677,452. Deborah met with Peggy Sledge (IHL) recently and discovered that 21.6% of Mississippi students received MTAG. Ms. Heidel questioned residence requirements, GED graduates and home school students. She felt it very important for students to stay in school and that using this type of incentive should help. Mr. Walker talked with employers recently and he thinks it will be a good sign to employers to push this program. Mr. Junkin expressed a concern about the scholarship being free. It was asked how the presidents felt about this issue, Dr. Ray said that he has heard some opposition. Dr. Webb said that this should be a positive step for the universities. Dr. Ray stated that this is an investment that will pay back very quickly. Mr. Walker commented on the workforce aspect of this program. The business community would be very much interested. Dr. Ray suggested adjustments for private and home school students, and growth in enrollment due to the plan be made and

presented again. Ms. Heidel suggested that the Board decide after answering some key questions. Mr. Hudspeth asked when the presidents will meet, because the board will need their endorsement. Board Members made comments on this issue before deciding that a special called meeting be held to address these and other questions. Staff will collect additional information for this meeting. The called meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 1998, at the 7:00 p.m. (Dinner at 6:00 p.m.) at the Edison Walthall Hotel. There will be only one item on the agenda (Fully Paid Tuition and Required Fees for Deserving Recent High School Graduates).

Dr. Ray reported on the Gulf Coast/USM Humanities Council speech that he and Dr. Layzell gave recently. It was reported that there will be a bill introduced in the House and Senate to do away with the State Board for Community & Junior College's authority to approve freshmen/sophomore level courses. USM may request authority to teach freshmen and sophomore level courses next year. The Board expressed support of Dr. Ray's position that the community colleges should be the primary deliverer of freshmen and sophomore level courses and that there should not be duplication of the lower level courses. The USM proposal will be distributed at the regular meeting tomorrow.

Finance Committee as a Whole - Deborah reported on disbursements. Action was required on the 1998 education enhancement fund disbursement. No other actions were required.

There were no program items to discuss.

#### OTHER

Mr. Walker brought to the Board's attention an article published in the Clarion Ledger recently regarding the Coahoma Agricultural High School. Dr. Presley said that this school does not receive the same support from the county as the other high schools. Coahoma Community College is having financial problems and will probably have to borrow from other funds. There was some discussion from board members. This was brought up as information only.

Ms. Heidel mentioned the adequate insurance coverage action item and wanted to know the status. SBCJC's recommendation was to approve the standards as presented. Hinds (two sites) and Coahoma were the only colleges initially out of compliance. Hinds have corrected their problem. Dr. Stonecypher stated that we have gotten verification from all schools except Coahoma.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.